

Dear Commissioners:

Stop hidden phone fees so I can truly compare prices of phone services. I support the petition filed by the National Association of State Utility Consumer Advocates and endorsed by other consumer advocacy organizations. CG Docket No. 04-208, Petition for Declaratory Ruling Regarding Truth-In-Billing and Billing Format, is long overdue.

Phone bills should be truthful and easy to understand. For years I've tried to get an acceptable explanation of the fees listed on my phone bills. We always get something like "those are federal charges" never what those charges are for or why the phone company collects them. I suggest you all do what I do. I withhold my payments till a few days before the second anniversary of the statement date. They can't disconnect you or charge you fees till the second anniversary. It costs them a lot and they can't stop you. Comcaste has the gaul to bill you in advance then demand payment as if it were late if you miss their arbitrary payment date. I've set them up on an autopayment plan and ignore their threats. All those threatening letters cost them money as well. Fight fire with fire! Money with Costs!

Because this practice is tolerated by the FCC, long distance and wireless phone companies are able to hide the true cost of service. These add-ons make the advertised price of service significantly less than the amount of the check I have to write each month to pay the bill. Competition will not work if consumers cannot accurately compare prices when shopping for service.

Many states are stepping up to address this problem. They should be allowed to proceed. However, the FCC shouldn't shirk its responsibility, nor limit states from doing more.

The FCC should immediately grant the NASUCA petition to investigate billing practices, and prohibit phone and wireless companies from imposing separate monthly fees, line items or surcharges unless expressly mandated by law or the charge is expressly authorized by a governmental authority.